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BOOK REVIEWS

Education in Sexual Physiology and Hygiene. By PHILIP ZENNER, M.D.
Cincinnati: Robert Clarke Co., 1910. 16 mo., pp. 128. \$1.00 net.

Among the many subjects consideration of which is being forced upon teachers by social conditions is that of instruction in sexual physiology and hygiene. Dr. Zenner's book is entitled to be called a contribution toward a solution of the problem. It reports a series of lessons on the subject in an elementary school and also gives an account of the effect produced by these lessons.

There are also printed several talks to college boys, filled with the kind of information that a physician can best bring home to young men. There is, however, no indication as to the results of this instruction.

The last forty pages contain what might be termed a physician's message to teachers and parents. The author insists upon the necessity of instruction with regard to matters of sex, points out the possibility of doing injury as well as good, makes some suggestions about methods, and insists upon the need of proper preparation on the part of the instructor, whether parent, teacher, or physician.

The book makes no pretention to completeness; it recognizes the tentative character of the undertaking. Its suggestions are valuable.

W. L. EIKENBERRY

A Holiday with the Birds. By JEANNETTE MARKS AND JULIA WOODS.
With Illustrations by CHESTER A. REED. New York: Harper & Bros., 1910. Pp. 211. 75 cents.

A Holiday with the Birds is a reader in the natural history of birds. The book is appropriate to be read by children in the intermediate grades. The first five chapters deal with general facts such as relate to feathers, preening, moulting, special senses, digestive and circulatory systems. Nine chapters deal with different characteristics and habits of members of the families of birds. Four closing chapters deal with the egg and the making of a bird; aunts, uncles, and cousins of the bird family; bird migration; and bird protection.

The entire book is in the nature of a conversation between three children, the summer tutor and companion, and other occasional members of their parties. The book suffers somewhat from the inconsequentialities and meaningless foreign frivolities that usually appear when attempt is made to manufacture conversation in order to present facts regarding nature. Nevertheless a large amount of dependable, valuable, and interesting bird lore is presented, and it is possible that the conversational style may increase the book's attractiveness to younger children. Teachers will certainly find the book stimulating and helpful as a nature reader for occasional use, and the story form doubtless will carry the interest of some children directly through the entire book.

O. W. C.